



**News from Congressman**

# **Tom Lantos**

**12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California  
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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## **Lantos: I Will Vote Against the Medicare Bill Because It Does Not Do Enough for Seniors**

**Washington, DC** – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) has announced that he will take a stand for seniors and vote against the Medicare Reform Bill because it will result in lost benefits for many, will close the door to lower prescription drug prices for all, and is the first step in the Republican plan to gut Medicare.

“Let’s establish a fair and affordable program and not destroy Medicare in the process,” Lantos said. “This bill will undermine a system that protects seniors from poor health and unpaid doctor’s bills. We should hold out for a better measure that will do more, and won’t force people into a situation where only market forces determine medical care.”

Lantos noted that the current bill does nothing to reduce drug costs – in fact, it prohibits government authorities from negotiating lower prices. It also creates the conditions for privatizing Medicare, and may force many seniors to turn to HMOs if they cannot afford to pay a higher price for services that they now receive under Medicare.

“Under this bill, seniors may be unable to choose their own doctors as they are pushed into HMOs and other private health care plans,” Lantos said. “This misguided legislation may help the giant drug and insurance companies, but it does not benefit older Americans.”

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